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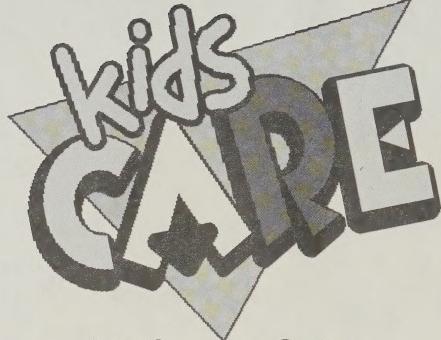
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kids
CARE



Is your child **SAFE?**

Canada



**Bring safety
into play!**



A home is a haven, a place where your child is safe from harm – or should be. But there are more hazards in the average home than you may think. Some of these can be deadly unless parents or caregivers take precautions to guard against them.

Many accidents are caused by burns, poisonings, or falls that need never happen.

You can prevent such accidents by careful supervision of your children and their surroundings and by knowing what safety features to look for whenever you buy baby products, toys or equipment.

This brochure is offered by Consumer and Corporate Affairs Canada to help alert you to potential hazards in and around your home and to help you choose products that are designed with your child's safety in mind.



Consumer and
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et Corporations
Canada

CRIBS

Every year some babies are injured or die while in their cribs. To reduce accidents, Consumer and Corporate Affairs Canada established crib safety regulations in 1974. These were updated in 1986. Your child's crib should meet these standards at the time of purchase and throughout its use.

What to look for

Construction: The crib should be sturdy and free of loose hardware, cracked or broken slats and sharp points or edges.

Avoid models with cut-outs, corner posts or ledges that can trap clothing or enable a child to climb out — and possibly fall to the floor.

See that double locks for securing the "drop" panel are provided.

The panels: Spaces between slats or bars should be six centimetres or less to prevent a baby from slipping through feet first.

The mattress: Make sure the mattress is less than 15 cm thick and does not have a soft surface.

Space around the mattress: The space between the mattress and the side of the crib should not exceed three centimetres. Measure by pushing the mattress into one corner.

The mattress support system: It must hold the mattress support firmly in position. See that the support fits tightly into the hangers by rattling the crib from side to side and thumping the mattress from top and bottom. If the support dislodges, do not use the crib.

Space between the mattress support and top rail: Your baby may try to climb the rail and fall if the side is too low. A

height of 66 cm is required from the lowest position of the mattress support to the top of the rail when the side is raised.

Keep your child safe

- ✓ When assembling a crib, follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully.
- ✓ After placing your child in the crib, ensure that the sides are securely locked in position. Do not harness or tie the child as this may cause strangulation.
- ✓ Examine the crib and bumper pads regularly for wear and tear and loose pieces that could harm a small child.
- ✓ As soon as a baby can stand, remove bumper pads and large toys which serve as steps for climbing. Stop using the crib altogether when the child can climb out.
- ✓ Avoid the use of mobiles or blind cords within reach of the child.
- ✓ Do not hang anything on the inside of the crib.

Important: *Do not place an infant of under two years on an adult bed with guard rails. Avoid the risk of suffocation, never put an infant on an adult water bed.*



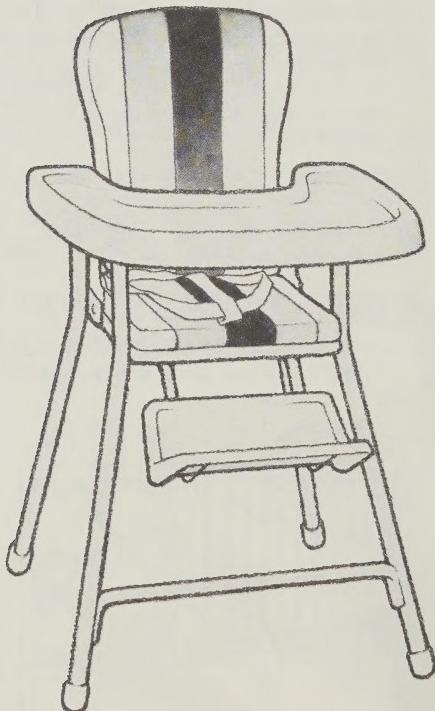
HIGH CHAIRS

In recent years, many children have been injured through falls from high chairs. Most injuries occurred when seat belts were not used and when children were not closely supervised.

What to look for

A safe high chair is stable and has a wide base to reduce the risk of tipping.

See that the seat belt is easy to fasten and in good condition.



Keep your child safe

Never leave your child unsupervised in a high chair. Active infants and toddlers may stand up in high chairs and fall; they may wriggle and slip under trays, and twist and turn until legs and arms protrude through bars and under open chair backs.

- ✓ Place the high chair so that little legs cannot reach anything. Children in high chairs can push against nearby furniture or walls and topple over.
- ✓ See that hands, fingers or head cannot become entrapped when the tray is raised or lowered.
- ✓ Always fasten the seat belt on the chair and never assume that a child cannot undo the belt or tray.
- ✓ With a folding model be sure the locking device is used and cannot accidentally become undone, causing the chair to collapse.
- ✓ Do not allow older children to climb onto the chair even when it is unoccupied.

PLAYPENS

Some older models of playpens caused a number of strangulations when infants caught buttons in large mesh openings. Consumer and Corporate Affairs Canada introduced playpen regulations in 1976 to overcome this and other hazards.

What to look for

Playpen wall material should be made of mosquito-type netting. Larger mesh may cause injury or death if the buttons or hooks on clothing get caught.

To reduce movement, the playpen should have no more than two wheels or castors. Sides must be stable, sturdy and at least 48 cm high.

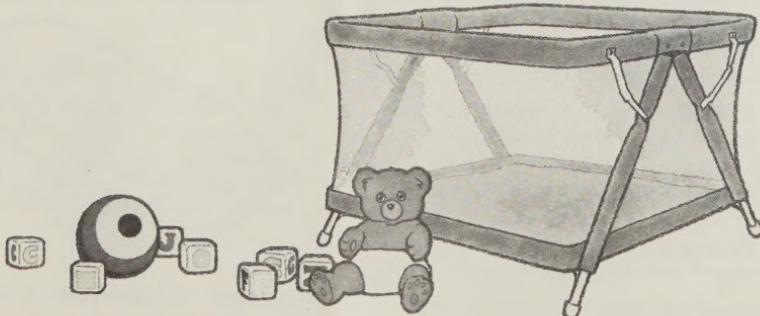
Avoid sharp edges or hinges that can pinch small fingers.

Keep your child safe

- ✓ The playpen must be checked regularly for damage or weakness. Discard it if it cannot be repaired properly.
- ✓ Check for loose parts and tears in the vinyl rails or mattress pad. Your child may bite off small pieces and choke.

- ✓ Do not put large toys and objects into the playpen; a child may use them as steps and climb out.
- ✓ To prevent possible entanglement, remove toys strung across playpens when baby begins to push up on hands and knees.
- ✓ Keep children clear when erecting the playpen.
- ✓ Don't put scarves, necklaces or long cords in the playpen that might catch or entrap your child.
- ✓ Never leave an infant in a drop-sided mesh playpen when one of the sides is not fixed firmly in the fully raised position. The infant may become entrapped and suffocate in the space created between the floor pad and the loose mesh side.
- ✓ Some playpens have mirrors attached to the side. Ensure that sunshine is not reflected from the mirror to cause fire.

Important: Once the child can climb out, the playpen no longer serves its purpose. It could even be hazardous and should not be used.



SAFETY GATES

Older style expansion gates that have wide V-shaped openings between slats have been associated with a number of strangulations and near fatalities. Consumer and Corporate Affairs Canada introduced regulations in 1990 to overcome this and other hazards.

What to look for

When purchasing a new or used expansion gate, ensure that it does not have any openings that could entrap a child's

head or neck and that it is recommended for your child's age.

Keep your child safe

- ✓ Gates should be installed strictly in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- ✓ Always anchor the gate securely in the doorway or passage. Models held by a pressure bar should be installed with the bar located on the side away from the child.

CAR SEATS

All provinces require that children be properly restrained when travelling in a motor vehicle. Look for labels on children's car seats that state compliance with Canada Motor Vehicle Safety Standards established by Transport Canada.

What to look for

Make sure the system you choose is right for the age and weight of your child and that it is properly installed.

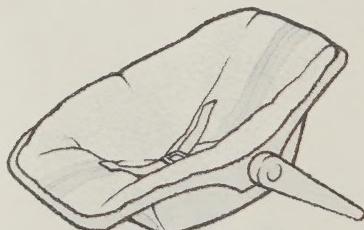
For further information on children's car seats and recalls, contact your nearest office of the Canadian Automobile Association and ask for the booklet Keep Them Safe.

BABY CARRIERS

For adequate stability, a baby carrier should have a wide, solid base.

If the seat has wire supporting devices that snap on the back, make sure they are secure. If they pop out they can injure a baby's back or make the carrier unstable.

Be sure the safety belts are in proper condition and always use them.



Important: A baby carrier is not a car seat and must never be used as one.

WALKERS

You should consider carefully the risks associated with walkers. They enable babies to move quickly and expose them to dangers they may be too young to recognize. A child in a walker can collide with furniture, pull on a dangling iron cord or tablecloth, or topple over. Accidental falls down stairs in walkers account for the largest number of head injuries in children under two years of age.

What to look for

When buying a walker, ensure that it fully complies with the Canadian Juvenile Products Association (CJPA) voluntary safety standards for walkers:

- it will not go through a door opening 81 cm wide;
- the seat is equipped with a lap belt;
- it has a wide base to prevent tipping;
- it is of a sturdy construction and will

not collapse under the weight of the child.

Keep your child safe

- ✓ Never leave a child unattended in a walker.
- ✓ Make sure that all stairways and other dangerous areas are blocked off when your baby is in the walker.
- ✓ Do not assume that a baby is unable to open a closed door when seated in a walker.
- ✓ Block off stoves, radiators, heaters and fireplaces when your child is in a walker and put other harmful items out of reach.
- ✓ Never use a walker for a child who cannot sit up without assistance or for one who can walk unaided.
- ✓ Check that floors are level and free from objects that may cause tipping.

STROLLERS

Regulations for carriages and strollers came into effect in 1985; be especially careful with models manufactured before this date. Check and maintain strollers regularly and always repair breakages promptly.

What to look for

Choose a sturdy stroller with a base wide enough to reduce the likelihood of tipping. Inspect it regularly for sharp edges and loose parts. Check the brakes and make sure the wheels are fastened securely.

Keep your child safe

- ✓ Seat belts should be strong and fit



snugly. Use the belt each time you place the baby in the stroller.

- ✓ Do not load the stroller with heavy packages that could upset its balance.
- ✓ With reversible-handle strollers, see that the child's fingers are clear before reversing the handle.
- ✓ When folding and unfolding a stroller, keep the child at a safe distance.

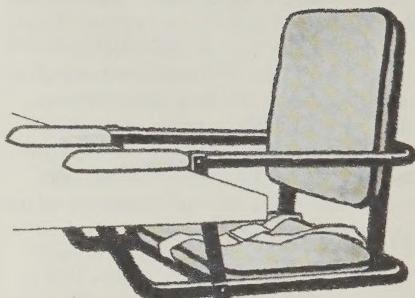
HOOK-ON CHAIRS

Hook-on chairs are clamped to the edge of the table and used as a substitute for a high chair. Be sure they are strong and securely attached. While seated in a hook-on chair, a child should be constantly supervised.

What to look for

Be sure the restraining straps are in proper condition and use them at all times.

When attaching the chair to the table, place it between the table supports or legs to prevent the child from pushing against them and dislodging the chair from the table.



PACIFIERS

Pacifiers have caused deaths and near-deaths. Safety regulations introduced by Consumer and Corporate Affairs Canada were developed to reduce the occurrence of accidents associated with their use.

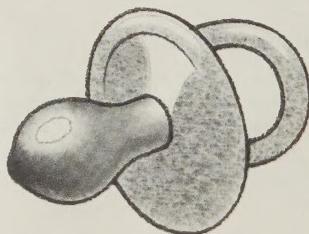
What to look for

A pacifier should be strong enough to withstand reasonable force and not break down into small pieces that are easily swallowed.

A large, rigid shield around the nipple base helps prevent the pacifier from entering too far into baby's mouth. The ring should be flexible or hinged to prevent the pacifier from being forced into the baby's mouth should he or she roll face down.

Keep your child safe

- ✓ Never fasten the pacifier or other object around the baby's neck.
- ✓ Inspect the pacifier frequently as it will deteriorate with age, heat and exposure to food and sunlight. Discard it immediately if changes in texture, tears or holes appear.



CHANGE TABLES

When using a table or bed to change a baby, never leave the baby unattended. In the instant it takes to reach for something, a baby can roll over and fall.

A change table should be equipped with straps to help keep baby in place while being dressed. If you are interrupted by the telephone, doorbell, or for any reason, you should take the child with you.

TOYS

Regulations under the *Hazardous Products Act* ensure that toys sold in Canada are among the safest in the world. Nevertheless, always select toys carefully and supervise children when they are at play.

Shopping

Before buying, read the manufacturer's instructions and examine the toy to see if it is sturdy and suitable for your child. Always check the age labelling, warnings and safety recommendations for toys. Keep in mind the possible danger for younger children who might play with the toy.

Avoid toys with small parts that can choke a young child.

At play

- Show children how to use their toys properly.
- Discard broken toys that can't be repaired.
- When a child can stand, remove all toys from the crib that could entangle clothing and cause strangulation.
- Mobiles within reach and toys strung across the crib should be removed as soon as children can sit up.
- Toys that litter the floor or stairs can be dangerous for adults and children



alike. Teach your child to put toys away.

Storing toys

A toy box should have adequate ventilation in case the child crawls inside. The lid should be lightweight and have supports to prevent it from slamming against a child's head.

Important: *Toys that shoot, especially those using darts and arrows, should never be pointed at another child or adult.*

FIRE AND YOUR CHILD'S CLOTHING

Every year children die from burns when their clothes catch fire. In cases where loose or flowing garments have ignited, one child in three has not survived. As a result, Consumer and Corporate Affairs Canada introduced more stringent regulations for safer sleepwear under the Hazardous Products Act, in 1987.

Keep your child safe

Young children do not understand the danger of fire. To protect them from accidents, follow these safety tips:

- ✓ Place proper guards in front of fireplaces. The guards must cover the entire opening.
- ✓ Place safety barriers around wood and coal stoves and around auxiliary heaters, whether gas, oil or electric.
- ✓ Keep matches and lighters out of children's reach.
- ✓ Choose children's clothing with care.



Cotton and cotton blend fabrics will ignite and burn more quickly than most synthetics. Nylon or polyester are difficult to ignite and burn slowly. Avoid garments with flowing skirts or sleeves, or with ruffles and trimming. Tighter fitting clothing is safer.

- ✓ Teach children what to do if their clothing catches fire: instead of running, they should be taught to stop, drop to the ground and roll to snuff out the flames.

SCALDING

Most scalding accidents involving children can be prevented. Always keep children out of the way when transferring food and liquids from stove to table. Lowering tap water temperatures also reduces the possibility of scalding accidents.

Keep your child safe

- ✓ The thermostat on the hot water heater should be set no higher than 54°C. Even as low as 38°C, water is

hot enough for the modern dishwasher.

- ✓ Test the water before placing the child in the bath. Water at 60°C can cause serious burns within six seconds.
- ✓ Teach children to turn on the cold water tap before the hot.
- ✓ Turn pot handles towards the centre of the stove or provide a guard around the stove edge to prevent children from pulling pots off the stove and spilling the contents onto themselves.

HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS

Every year thousands of poisonings involving household chemical products are reported to poison control centres. Most involve children under four years of age.

Prevent poisonings. Store hazardous chemicals out of reach of children.

Child resistant containers and symbols

Regulated chemical products are required by law to bear appropriate hazard symbols on the labels and some must be packaged in child resistant containers.



Poison



Flammable



Explosive



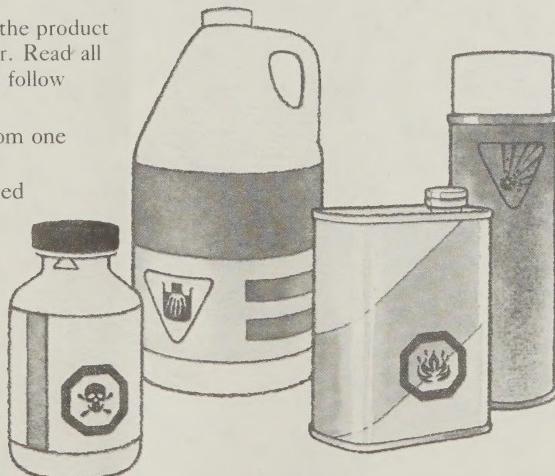
Corrosive

- ✓ Always replace the cap properly before you set the container down, even if it is for just a moment. Make sure the closing mechanism works at all times.
- ✓ Teach children the dangers involved with chemicals and to recognize and respect hazard symbols.
- ✓ Purchase household chemicals in small quantities and store them in their original containers with labels.
- ✓ Keep the telephone number of your doctor, poison control centre, ambulance and fire department prominently by the telephone.

Important: Should an accident occur, call a doctor or poison control centre and be ready to give the information from the label. Follow the first aid treatment advised.

Keep your child safe

- ✓ Whenever possible choose the product in a child resistant container. Read all product labels carefully and follow instructions to the letter.
- ✓ Do not transfer contents from one container to another.
- ✓ Children must not be allowed to play with containers.



BUNK BEDS

When selecting a bunk bed, ensure that the upper bunk has guard rails on all sides. Mattresses on upper and lower bunks should fit snugly on all sides of the bed.

Children under six years of age should never be placed in the upper bunk. Children should avoid the kind of horse play that can damage the upper bunk.

PLASTIC BAGS

Plastic bags can suffocate a child if pulled over its head. Do not leave plastic

bags lying around the house. Tie a knot in the bag and then dispose of it.

BATTERIES

A battery is not a toy and may cause serious injury to a child. Check dry cells regularly and remove batteries from toys in storage. If your child swallows a

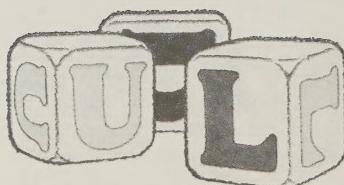
button battery — used in calculators and watches — call your doctor or poison control centre immediately.

SOFT DRINK BOTTLES

Store glass-bottled soft drinks out of reach of children. If tipped or dropped,

they may explode and cause serious injury.

For further information about child safety, contact your nearest office of Consumer and Corporate Affairs Canada.



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